

XVIII.—On the Birds of Inkerman Station, North Queensland.

By COLLINGWOOD INGRAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(Plate IX.)

EARLY in 1907 my father arranged that Mr. Stalker should transfer his labours from Alexandra, in Northern Territory, South Australia—where he had been making exhaustive collections of birds and mammals—to Inkerman, another cattle-station belonging to the same owners in North Queensland. Before describing the excellent series of birds procured at the latter place, I had hoped to be able to supplement my first paper ('Ibis,' 1907, p. 387) by the description of a further consignment of skins from Alexandra; but although the case containing them was dispatched more than eighteen months ago, owing to floods and other hindrances it has not yet reached its destination.

The Inkerman collection is very extensive, and no fewer than ninety-three species are represented in it, of which two (*Neositta magirostris* and *Sphecotheres stalker*) are new to science.

Unfortunately Mr. Stalker has not supplied us with even a rough description of the locality in which he worked; but as I spent a fortnight at this station when in Australia some years ago, I am to a certain extent able to remedy this omission from my own journal. However, as I was there towards the end of an exceptionally long and severe drought, I probably saw the country under somewhat different conditions, while the phenomenal aridity no doubt explained the extreme paucity of bird-life noticed at the time of my visit. Whether Mr. Stalker purposely refrained from collecting the larger birds I do not know, but when I was at Inkerman in July and early August 1902, it was certainly the large forms that were then most commonly encountered—indeed, the locality seemed to be almost entirely deserted by the smaller passerine species. It may perhaps be of interest to enumerate here the few birds observed by me and not procured by Mr. Stalker.

On several occasions Emus (*Dromæus novæ-hollandiæ*) were seen feeding at a distance of two or three hundred yards, while the body of one was found partly imbedded in the mud of a lagoon; this bird had evidently perished in attempting to reach the water, being unable to extricate itself from the soft mud. Cranes or "Native Companions" (*Antigone australasiana*) were frequently encountered, while Jabirus (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*) and Pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) were also fairly common. These birds appeared to be very fearless when we were driving in a buggy, and the first two would merely flap or stride out of the way, rarely taking wing unless disturbed by a man on foot. The Australian Bustard (*Eupodotes australis*) was less plentiful, and only one example was procured during my stay. Of the Anatidæ I may mention the Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*), the Teal (*Nettion castaneum*), the White-eyed Duck (*Nyroca australis*), the Maned Goose (*Chenonetta jubata*), the Pied Goose (*Anseranas semipalmata*), and a single example of the Plumed Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna eytoni*), the first three species being by far the commonest.

The Pied Goose was a bird especially interesting to me, on account of its habit of settling upon the uppermost branches of trees. There was a certain lagoon almost always frequented by a dozen or more of these Geese, and they were usually to be found resting on a couple of dead trees that had fallen across the water. When suspicious, they would straighten their necks and utter a cackling or trumpeting noise, which they kept up until all danger had passed; on the other hand, if thoroughly disturbed, they would rise with heavy flight and, after circling once or twice round the lagoon, finally settle, perhaps somewhat awkwardly, on the topmost twigs of a gum-tree, the branches swaying to and fro under their weight. Of course, it must be remembered that the feet of these Geese are only partially palmated, which enables them to perch with a certain amount of ease.

It is a little surprising that Mr. Stalker has not sent home any specimens of Corvidæ, as a black Crow (either *Corvus coronoides* or *Corone australis*) was very numerous

round the station-buildings when I was there. Finding them wild and somewhat difficult to approach, I unfortunately did not trouble to shoot one for identification. The Squatter Pigeon (*Geophaps scripta*) was also fairly common, while Cockatoos (*Cacatua galerita*) were not unfrequently encountered.

Approximately situate in lat. 20° S. by long. 147° E., Inkerman Station lies some fifty miles to the south-west of Townsville, and is about ten miles from the banks of the Burdekin—a river, in 1902, reduced to a few pools of brackish water, but which, I am told, at certain seasons carries a fine volume of water.

After a rainless spell of many months' duration—it was several years since there had been a normal rainfall—the country was terribly parched and dry when I visited it, as is shown by the following remarks transcribed from my journal:—“As one looks over the stretch of dead, bleached grass-stems, the atmosphere shimmers in the noonday sun almost as it would upon a desert and, with the exception of the tree-foliage, there is absolutely no verdure to be seen. Generally speaking, the district is flat, but in several quarters a single hill or small range of hills show abruptly above the level, and these appear to be more or less uniformly covered with trees and scrub.

“Most of the level country is also covered with an open forest, but in many places the gum-trees are very thinly scattered over the ground. The two commonest species, and those that give character to the landscape, are the Moreton Bay ash and the blood-wood; the former being by far the most numerous. But here and there are also trees of other kinds—the pandanus, leichhardt, acacia, bottle-tree, and others; although of course the typical *Eucalypti* always predominate. Situated at wide intervals over nearly the whole station are narrow sheets of water—‘lagoons,’ as they are locally termed. These are often deep and sunk between steep banks, and not a few are thickly overgrown with blue water-lilies or with the more luxuriant lotus-lily.”

Mr. Stalker also collected birds on Mount Elliot, near Townsville, and on Mount Abbot, in the Bowen district.

In the order of the species and nomenclature I have implicitly followed Mr. Gregory Mathews in his recently published 'Handlist of the Birds of Australia'*, a work founded to a large extent on Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's more comprehensive 'Hand-list of Birds' now in course of publication, while, for the convenience of my readers, I have also quoted Gould's more familiar names.

It is pleasing to think that my father's recent interest in scientific ornithology should have met with such encouraging results, for the two collections that he has placed at my disposal have added no fewer than seven new species or subspecies to the Australian list! In concluding I would like to mention my indebtedness to Dr. Sharpe and the other officials at the British Museum for the kind and courteous assistance which they have rendered me during the preparation of this paper; while I must not forget my obligations to Mr. Mathews, who has very kindly looked over the proof-sheets before they went to press.

1. *MACROPYGIA PHASIANELLA* Temm.

Macropygia phasianella Gld. Handb. ii. p. 148; Math. Handl. p. 10.

a. Adult. Inkerman.

2. *GEOPELIA HUMERALIS* (Temm.).

Erythrauchana humeralis Gld. Handb. ii. p. 142.

Geopelia humeralis Math. Handl. p. 10.

No. 333. ♀ adult. Inkerman, April 19, 1907. Bill dark grey; feet pinkish; iris pale yellow.

3. *PODICIPES NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ* Steph.

Podiceps gularis Gld. Handb. ii. p. 513.

Podiceps novæ-hollandiæ Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 392; Math. Handl. p. 14.

a. ♀ imm. Inkerman, June 9, 1907. Bill brown above, cream below; feet green-black.

4. *HYDROCHELIDON HYBRIDA* (Pall.).

Hydrochelidon leucopareia Gld. Handb. ii. p. 406.

Hydrochelidon hybrida Math. Handl. p. 20.

* See 'The Emu,' Supplement to vol. vii., January 1908.

a, b, c. ♂, ♂, ♂ (two adult and one imm.). Inkerman, Oct. 7, 1907. Bill dark red; feet scarlet (dark red in the immature example); iris brown.

5. GELOCHELIDON ANGLICA (Mont.).

Gelochelidon macrotarsa Gld. Handb. ii. p. 403.

Gelochelidon anglica Math. Handl. p. 20.

No. 345. ♂ adult. Beach Mount, Inkerman, April 28, 1907. Bill and feet black; iris brown.

6. STERNA BERGII (Licht.).

Thalasseus cristatus Gld. Handb. ii. p. 394.

Sterna bergii Math. Handl. p. 20.

No. 348. ♂ adult. Beach Mount, Inkerman. Feet black.

7. STERNA SINENSIS (Gmel.).

Sterna sinensis Math. Handl. p. 21.

a. ♂ adult. Beach Mount, Inkerman, May 2, 1907. Bill dark brown; feet blackish brown.

8. LARUS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ Steph.

Bruchigavia jamsonii Gld. Handb. ii. p. 387.

Larus novæ-hollandiæ Math. Handl. p. 22.

a. sex? adult. Beach Mount, Inkerman, April 24, 1907. No. 340. *b, c.* ♂ ♀ adult. Beach Mount, Inkerman, May 5, 1907. Bill dark red or purplish red; feet scarlet; iris pale grey-yellow.

9. HÆMATOPUS LONGIROSTRIS Vieill.

Hæmatopus longirostris Gld. Handb. ii. p. 215; Math. Handl. p. 23.

a, b. ♂ and ? adult. Beach Mount, Inkerman. Bill scarlet, creamy towards tip; feet pinkish red.

10. LOBIVANELLUS MILES (Bodd.).

Lobivanellus personatus Gld. Handb. ii. p. 220.

Lobivanellus miles Math. Handl. p. 24.

No 375. ♂ adult. Inkerman, Nov. 18, 1907. Bill yellow; feet red; iris yellow.

11. *ÆGIALITIS RUFICAPILLA* (Temm.).*Ægialophilus ruficapillus* Gld. Handb. ii. p. 235.*Ægialitis ruficapilla* Math. Handl. p. 25.No. 344. *a, b.* ♂ ♀ adult. Beach Mount, Inkerman,
April 28, 1907.,, *c, d.* ♀ and ? adult. Beach Mount, Inkerman,
May 3, 1907.

Bill black ; feet greyish black ; iris brown.

12. *HYDRALECTOR GALLINACEUS* (Temm.).*Parra gallinacea* Gld. Handb. ii. p. 330.*Hydralector gallinaceus* Math. Handl. p. 29.No. 354. *a, b.* ♀ and ?. Inkerman, June 1907. Feet
dark green ; iris brown.13. *BURHINUS GRALLARIUS* (Lath.).*Ædicnemus grallarius* Gld. Handb. ii. p. 210.*Burhinus grallarius* Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 394 ; Math.
Handl. p. 29.

No. 326. ♂ adult. Inkerman, March 27, 1907.

,, ♀ adult. Inkerman, May 28, 1907.

Bill black ; feet greenish grey ; iris yellow-grey.

14. *IBIS MOLUCCA* Cuvier.*Threskiornis strictipennis* Gld. Handb. ii. p. 284.*Ibis molucca* Math. Handl. p. 30.*a.* ♀ (?) adult. Inkerman, March 12, 1907. Bill black ;
feet bright grey-blue. Food small crabs.15. *HERODIAS TIMORIENSIS* Less.*Herodias alba* Gld. Handb. ii. p. 301.*Herodias timoriensis* Math. Handl. p. 32.*a.* ♂ adult. Inkerman, Nov. 19, 1907. Bill yellow, face
&c. green ; feet black ; iris pale yellow.16. *NOTOPHOYX NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ* (Lath.).*Ardea novæ-hollandiæ* Gld. Handb. ii. p. 299.*Notophoyx novæ-hollandiæ* Math. Handl. p. 32.*a.* ♂ adult. Inkerman, May 22, 1907. Bill dark blue ;
feet greenish yellow ; iris greyish yellow.

17. NYCTICORAX CALEDONICUS (Gm.).

Nycticorax caledonicus Gld. Handb. ii. p. 311; Math. Handl. p. 33.

a, b. ♀ and ? imm. Inkerman, April 1, 1907. Bill greenish brown and greenish yellow to black; feet pale yellowish green; iris narrow, bright yellow. "Food crabs and insects."

18. BUTORIDES STAGNATILIS (Gld.).

Butorides javanica Gld. Handb. ii. p. 317.

Butorides stagnatilis Math. Handl. p. 33.

No. 347. ♀ imm. Inkerman, May 1, 1907. Feet dark green; iris yellow.

19. NETTOPUS PULCHELLUS Gld.

Nettopus pulchellus Gld. Handb. ii. p. 357; Math. Handl. p. 34.

a. ♂ adult. Inkerman, April 4, 1907.

b, c. ♂ ♀ adult. Inkerman, April 11, 1907. Bill black, tip blue-grey; feet black; iris brown.

20. PHALACROCORAX MELANOLEUCUS Vieill.

Phalacrocorax melanoleucus Gld. Handb. ii. p. 493; Math. Handl. p. 37.

No. 349. Sex ? imm. Inkerman, April 26, 1907. Bill dark brown above, deep yellow below; feet black.

21. ASTUR FASCIATUS Vig. & Horsf.

Astur approximans Gld. Handb. i. p. 41.

Astur fasciatus Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 396; Math. Handl. p. 40.

No. 328. *a.* ♂ imm. Inkerman, April 16, 1907.

„ *b.* ♂ adult. Castle Hill, Mount Abbot, Oct. 21, 1907. Bill bluish black, cere yellow; feet yellow; iris bright yellow.

22. HALIAËTUS LEUCOGASTER Gm.

Polihoaëtus leucogaster Gld. Handb. i. p. 13.

Haliaëtus leucogaster Math. Handl. p. 41.

No. 374. ♀ adult. Inkerman, Nov. 18, 1907. Bill dark blue; feet dirty white; iris brown.

23. HALIASTUR GIRRENERA Vieill.

Haliastur leucosternus Gld. Handb. i. p. 17.*Haliastur girrenera* Math. Handl. p. 41.

No. 343. ♂ adult. Inkerman, Oct. 15, 1907. Bill yellowish, shading to bluish at base, green at juncture of colours ; top of cere yellow ; feet yellow ; iris brown.

“ Nest in blue gum overhanging shady water-hole.”

24. HALIASTUR SPHENURUS (Vieill.).

Haliastur sphenurus Gld. Handb. i. p. 20 ; Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 397 ; Math. Handl. p. 41.

a. ♀ adult. Inkerman Station, May 23, 1907. Bill purple-grey ; feet dirty white ; iris brown.

25. CERCHNEIS CENCHROIDES (Vig. & Horsf.).

Tinnunculus cenchroides Gld. Handb. i. p. 35.

Cerchneis cenchroides Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 399 ; Math. Handl. p. 42.

a. ♂ adult. Beach Mount, Inkerman, April 28, 1907. Bill grey to blue ; feet yellow ; iris brown.

26. NINOX BOOBOOK (Lath.).

Spiloglaux boobook Gld. Handb. i. p. 74.*Ninox boobook* Math. Handl. p. 43.

a. Adult. Inkerman, 1907.

27. NINOX CONNIVENS (Lath.).

Hieroglaux connivens Gld. Handb. i. p. 71.*Ninox connivens* Math. Handl. p. 43.

a. ♀ adult. Inkerman, April 22, 1907. Bill shaded yellow, much of upper mandible bluish ; feet orange-yellow ; iris bright yellow.

28. TRICHOGLOSSUS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ (Gmelin).

Trichoglossus multicolor Gld. Handb. ii. p. 93 ; Math. Handl. p. 45.

No. 308. a, b, c. ♂, ♀, ♀ adult. Mount Inkerman, March 14 & 18, 1907. Bill red and yellow ; feet bluish ; iris orange.

29. PTISTES ERYTHROPTERUS (Gmelin).

Ptistes erythropterus Gld. Handb. ii. p. 37 ; Math. Handl. p. 48.

No. 302. *a, b, c, d.* Inkerman, April 18 & 21, 1907. Bill creamy yellow and reddish ; feet black ; iris brown.

30. PLATYCERCUS PALLIDICEPS Vigors.

Platycercus palliceps Gld. Handb. ii. p. 51 ; Math. Handl. p. 49.

No. 352. ♂ ♀. Inkerman, June 1907. Bill creamy blue ; feet black ; iris brown.

31. PODARGUS PHALÆNOIDES Gld.

Podargus phalænoides Gld. Handb. i. p. 90 ; Math. Handl. p. 52.

No. 320. Sex ? Inkerman, Feb. 4, 1907. Bill and feet greeny grey ; iris golden yellow. The bird was moulting heavily when shot.

32. EURYSTOMUS PACIFICUS (Lath.).

Eurystomus pacificus Gld. Handb. i. p. 119 ; Math. Handl. p. 53.

No. 368. *a, b.* ♂ ♀ adult. Mount Abbot, Oct. 1907. Bill orange-scarlet ; feet scarlet ; iris brown.

33. DACELO LEACHI Vig. & Horsf.

Dacelo leachii Gld. Handb. i. p. 124 ; Math. Handl. p. 54.

No. 304. *a, b.* ♀ and ?. Inkerman, March 7, 1907. Bill dark brown above, cream below ; feet grey ; iris greyish white.

34. HALCYON MACLEAYI Jardine & Selby.

Cyanalcyon macleayi Gld. Handb. i. p. 133.

Halcyon macleayi Math. Handl. p. 54.

a, b. ♂ and ?. Inkerman, April 4, 1907. Bill black, cream at base of under mandible ; feet black ; iris brown.

The bird *a* has a fawn collar round the hind-neck, and is probably an immature example.

35. HALCYON SANCTUS Vig. & Horsf.

Todirhamphus sanctus Gld. Handb. i. p. 128.

Halcyon sanctus Math. Handl. p. 54.

No. 315. ♂ adult. Mount Inkerman. March 18, 1907.
Bill bluish black above, cream-colour below ; feet dark grey ;
iris brown.

36. *MEROPS ORNATUS* Lath.

Merops ornatus Gld. Handb. i. p. 117 ; Ingram, Ibis,
1907, p. 401 ; Math. Handl. p. 55.

No. 318. *a, b.* ♀ ♀ adult. Inkerman, April 3, 1907.

„ *c.* ♀ adult. Inkerman, Oct. 9, 1907.

Bill and feet black ; iris hazel-brown.

37. *CUCULUS INORNATUS* Vig. & Horsf.

Cacomantis pallidus Gld. Handb. i. p. 615.

Cuculus inornatus Math. Handl. p. 57.

No. 300. ♂ adult. Inkerman, March 5, 1907.

No. 361. ♀ adult. Inkerman, Oct. 9, 1907.

Bill bluish black, ranging into light brown below ; feet
dark grey ; iris brown ; ring round the eye bright yellow.
This bird had been feeding on hairy caterpillars.

38. *CACOMANTIS FLABELLIFORMIS* (Lath.).

Cacomantis insperatus Gld. Handb. i. p. 619.

Cacomantis variolosus Campbell, Nests & Eggs Austr. B.
ii. p. 572 ; Hall, Key B. of Austr. p. 58.

Cacomantis flabelliformis Math. Handl. p. 57.

No. 373. ♀ (?) adult. Mount Inkerman, Nov. 11, 1907.
Bill black above, greyish below ; iris purplish white.

39. *CENTROPUS PHASIANUS* (Lath.).

Centropus phasianus Gld. Handb. i. p. 634 ; Math. Handl.
p. 59.

No. 306. *a.* ♀ adult. Inkerman Spring, March 7, 1907.

„ *b.* ♂ adult. Inkerman, April 15, 1907.

I observed this species at Inkerman on Aug. 7, 1902, and
wrote the following remarks in my journal :—“ We flushed
this long-tailed, brown bird from some tall growth and it
flew up into a Moreton Bay ash, from which it refused to
be disturbed. Among the thin, vertical foliage of this tree
it seemed almost incredible that it could find any conceal-

ment, but by remaining perfectly still and cleverly placing itself, the bird succeeded in hiding very well, and no amount of shouting, stones or sticks would persuade it to move."

40. *HIRUNDO JAVANICA* Sparrm.

Hirundo fretensis Gld. Handb. i. p. 110.

Hirundo javanica Math. Handl. p. 60.

a. Immature.

41. *MICRÆCA FLAVIVENTRIS* Salvad.

Micræca flavigaster Gld. Handb. i. p. 261.

Micræca flaviventris Math. Handl. p. 61.

No. 386. a, b. ♀ and ? adult. Mount Inkerman, May 17, 1907.

„ c, d, e. ♂, ♂, ♀ adult. Inkerman Spring, Sept. 1907.

„ f, g. ♂ ♀ adult. Mount Elliot, Dec. 1907.

Bill dark brown; feet black; iris brown.

The whole series is unusually pale in colour, the birds having a dull "washed-out" appearance.

42. *SMICRORNIS FLAVESCENS* Gld.

Smicrornis flavescens Gld. Handb. i. p. 274; Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 403; Math. Handl. p. 63.

a. ♀ adult. Mount Abbot, Oct. 1907. Bill light brown; feet black; iris brown. "In high gum, early morning."

43. *GERYGONE ALBIGULARIS* Gld.

Gerygone albigularis Gld. Handb. i. p. 266; Math. Handl. p. 63.

a, b. Sex ? adult. Mount Inkerman, May 17, 1907. Bill dark brown; feet black; iris reddish brown.

44. *PÆCILODRYAS SUPERCILIOSA* Gld.

Pæcilodryas superciliosa Gld. Handb. i. p. 289; Math. Handl. p. 64.

No. 388. a, b, c. ♂, ♂, and ? adult. Inkerman Spring, Sept. 1907.

„ d, e. ♂ ♀ adult. Mount Elliot, Townsville, Dec. 1907.

Bill and feet black; iris brown.

45. RHIPIDURA ALBISCAPA Gld.

Rhipidura albiscapa Gld. Handb. i. p. 238; Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 404; Math. Handl. p. 65.

a. Sex? adult. Inkerman, April 11, 1907. Bill and feet black; iris brown.

46. RHIPIDURA RUFIFRONS (Lath.).

Rhipidura rufifrons Gld. Handb. i. p. 240; Math. Handl. p. 65.

a, b. ♂ and ? adult. Inkerman, Sept. 1907. Bill blackish; feet brown; iris brown. Found in fairly dense scrub.

47. RHIPIDURA ISURA Gld.

Rhipidura isura Gld. Handb. i. p. 242; Math. Handl. p. 66.

No. 385. ♂ adult. Mount Elliot, Dec. 1907. Bill and feet black; iris brown. "Found in thick scrub; testes very large."

48. RHIPIDURA TRICOLOR Vieill.

Sauloprocta motacilloides Gld. Handb. i. p. 244.

Rhipidura tricolor Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 404; Math. Handl. p. 66.

a. Sex? adult. Inkerman.

49. SISURA INQUIETA Lath.

Seisura inquieta Gld. Handb. i. p. 246.

Sisura inquieta Math. Handl. p. 66.

a. Adult. Inkerman.

50. MYIAGRA RUBECULA (Lath.).

Myiagra plumbea Gld. Handb. i. p. 252.

Myiagra rubecula Math. Handl. p. 66.

No. 321. a, b. ♂ ♂ adult. Inkerman, Feb. 4, 1907.

„ c. Sex? Inkerman, April 11, 1907.

„ d. ♂ adult. Mount Abbot, Oct. 20, 1907. Bill bluish black; feet black; iris brown.

51. PIEZORHYNCHUS GOULDI Gray.

Piezorhynchus gouldi Math. Handl. p. 67.

Monarcha trivirgata, Gld. Handb. i. p. 263.

a, b. ♂ ♂. Spring Ranges, Inkerman, Sept. 1907. Bill dark blue; feet black; iris brown.

52. MONARCHA MELANOPSIS Vieill.

Monarcha carinata Gld. Handb. i. p. 262.

Monarcha melanopsis Math. Handl. p. 67.

a. ♀ adult. Near Mt. Abbot, Oct. 20, 1907. Bill bluish; feet dark blue; iris brown.

53. CORACINA ROBUSTA (Lath.).

Graucalus melanops Gld. Handb. i. p. 192; Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 405.

Coracina robusta Math. Handl. p. 68.

No. 346. a, b. ♂ and ? adult. Inkerman, April 28 and Oct. 17, 1907. Bill and feet black; iris brown.

54. CORACINA MENTALIS (Vig. & Horsf.).

Graucalus mentalis Gld. Handb. i. p. 195.

Coracina mentalis Math. Handl. p. 68.

No. 354. Sex ? adult. Inkerman, June 1907.

No. 355. ♂ adult. Inkerman, June 1907.

No. 379. ♀ ♀ adult. Mount Elliot, Dec. 1, 1907.

Bill and feet black; iris brown.

55. LALAGE TRICOLOR (Swains.).

Campephaga humeralis Gld. Handb. i. p. 204.

Lalage tricolor Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 405; Math. Handl. p. 68.

No. 372. a. ♂ adult. Mount Inkerman, Nov. 11, 1907.

„ b. ♀ adult. Mount Abbot, Oct. 1907.

Bill black (blackish above and yellowish underneath in female); feet black; iris brown.

56. LALAGE LEUCOMELÆNA Vig. & Horsf.

Campephaga leucomela Gld. Handb. i. p. 203.

Lalage leucomelæna Math. Handl. p. 68.

No. 381. ♂ adult. Mount Elliot (500 ft.), Dec. 1907. Bill and feet black; iris brown.

57. MALURUS MELANOCEPHALUS Vig. & Horsf.

Malurus melanocephalus Gld. Handb. i. p. 333; Math. Handl. p. 79.

No. 365. *a, b.* Sexes ? Inkerman, April 11, 1907.

„ *c, d, e.* ♂, ♀, ♂ adult. Inkerman, Oct. 3, 11,
and 19, 1907.

Bill, black in adult male, dark brown in immature male and brown in female ; feet light brown ; iris brown.

The specimen *c* is in full male plumage ; in *e* the black and orange feathers are just being acquired.

58. *ARTAMUS LEUCOGASTER* Valenc.

Artamus parvirostris Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 410.

Artamus leucogaster Math. Handl. p. 80.

No. 327. ♂ adult. Inkerman, April 16, 1907.

No. 387. ♀ adult. Mount Elliot, Dec. 1907.

Bill blue to black ; iris brown.

Mr. Stalker remarks that there was a “large egg in the ovary” of the Mt. Elliot bird.

59. *ARTAMUS HYPOLEUCUS* Sharpe.

Artamus albiventris Gld. Handb. i. p. 149.

Artamus hypoleucus Math. Handl. p. 81.

No. 362. *a, b, c.* ♂, ♀, ♂ (2 adult, 1 imm.). Inkerman,
March 15, 1907.

„ *d.* ♂ adult. Inkerman, April 16, 1907.

These birds are much greyer throughout than the two examples from the Interior and S. Australia in the British Museum, which, however, have every appearance of being soil-stained or dirty. Without a larger series for comparison it is impossible to say whether the difference is geographical or not, but the skins, collected from widely separated districts, are certainly distinguishable from one another.

60. *ARTAMUS TENEBROSUS* (Lath.).

Artamus sordidus Gld. Handb. i. p. 143.

Artamus tenebrosus Math. Handl. p. 81.

a. Adult. Inkerman.

61. *ARTAMUS MINOR* Vieill.

Artamus minor Gld. Handb. i. p. 146 ; Ingram, Ibis, 1907,
p. 408 ; Math. Handl. p. 81.

a. ♂ adult. Inkerman, Iron-bark Ranges, Sept. 1907.

b. ♀ adult. Inkerman, Spring Ranges, Sept. 1907.

Bill indigo-coloured, black tip; feet black; iris brown.

62. COLLYRIOCICHLA HARMONICA (Lath.).

Colluricincla harmonica Gld. Handb. i. p. 220.

Collyriocichla harmonica Math. Handl. p. 81.

No. 369. ♂ adult. Near Mount Abbot, Oct. 21, 1907.

Bill black; feet blue-grey; iris brown.

63. PINAROLESTES BOWERI Ramsay.

Pinarolestes boweri Math. Handl. p. 82.

No. 371. *a, b.* ♂ ♀ adult. Inkerman, April 18 and
Nov. 11, 1907.

„ *c.* ♂ adult. Mount Elliot, Dec. 1, 1907.

Bill light brown and purplish brown; feet pinky brown; iris brown. This bird was found among mangroves and in dense scrub, and had many musical notes.

64. GYMNORHINA TIBICEN (Lath.).

Gymnorhina tibicen Gld. Handb. i. p. 175; Math. Handl.
p. 83.

No. 300. *a, b.* ♂ ♀ (?) imm. Inkerman, March 5, 1907.
Bill blue-grey to black; feet black; iris brown.

“Feeding on grasshoppers.”

65. CRACTICUS PICATUS Gld.

Cracticus picatus Gld. Handb. i. p. 181; Ingram, Ibis,
1907, p. 410; Math. Handl. p. 84.

No. 305. *a.* ♂ imm. Inkerman Spring, March 7, 1907.

„ *b, c.* ♂ ♀ adult. Inkerman, March 14, 1907.

Bill grey-blue to black; feet black (greyish in immature example); iris brown.

66. PACHYCEPHALA MELANURA Gld.

Pachycephala melanura Gld. Handb. i. p. 211; Math.
Handl. p. 84.

No. 334. ♂. Inkerman, March 18, 1907. Bill light brown; feet dark brown; iris brown.

This specimen, not having acquired its adult plumage, is somewhat difficult to determine, but it seems highly probable



West, Newman imp.

NEOSITTA MAGNIROSTRIS, ♀, ♂.

that it belongs to the above-named species. The head, back, and tail are dark olive-grey; the under parts are dirty buffish white with bright chestnut-red feathers shewing on the belly and under tail-coverts. The auriculars, wing-coverts, and secondaries are also reddish chestnut, the whole giving the bird a very mottled appearance, as though changing into another phase of plumage. There are also one or two chestnut feathers on the crown and nape.

67. *PACHYCEPHALA RUFIVENTRIS* (Lath.).

Pachycephala rufiventris Gld. Handb. i. p. 212; Math. Handl. p. 85.

No. 301. *a.* Sex? Inkerman, Feb. 4, 1907.

„ *b.* ♂ imm. Inkerman, March 5, 1907.

„ *c.* ♂ (?). „ March 7, 1907.

„ *d, e.* ♂ ♂ imm. and adult. Inkerman, March 14, 1907.

„ *f.* ♂ adult. Inkerman, April 19, 1907.

„ *g, h.* ♀ ♀ adult. Inkerman, Sept. and Oct. 1907.

„ *i.* ♂ adult. Mt. Inkerman, Nov. 11, 1907.

„ *j.* ♀ adult. Mt. Elliot, Townsville, Dec. 1907.

The adult males *e, f,* and *i* have the bill and feet black, iris brown; the others, in female plumage, have the bill dark brown and creamy or yellow-brown towards the base of the under mandible.

68. *EOPSALTRIA CHRYSORRHOA* Gld.

Eopsaltria chrysorrhoea Math. Handl. p. 86.

a. ♂ (?) adult. Mount Elliot (between 1500 and 2000 feet), Dec. 1907. Bill black; feet dark brown; iris hazel. Found in Casuarina-scrub.

69. *NEOSITTA MAGNIROSTRIS*. (Plate IX.)

Neositta magnirostris Ingram, Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxi. p. 99.

a, b, c, d. ♂, ♂, ♀, and ? adult. Inkerman, March 14, 1907.

e. ♂ adult. Spring Ranges, Inkerman, Sept. 1907.

Bill creamy brown and dark purplish brown; feet pale bright yellow; iris cream.

This interesting species of Tree-runner is most nearly allied to *N. striata*, but differs from that bird in its generally larger size, and especially in its longer and more massive bill, the average length of the culmen being 0·63 in. as compared with 0·53 in. The bill is also considerably darker, being brownish black for at least three-fourths of its length, and is only cream-coloured at the extreme base, as is that of *N. pileata*. In *N. striata* the blackish marks are confined to the anterior third or half of the bill, chiefly on the upper and lower edges, the remaining area being lemon-yellow. The back is noticeably greyer than in the last-mentioned bird, while the under parts are not so distinctly or so heavily striated, especially towards the centre of the breast and abdomen, which are also of a purer white. The black head of the female and crown of the male lack the brownish tinge noticed in *N. striata*. Average measurements of the two types: wing 3·3 in., tail 1·5 in., tarsus 0·7 in., culmen 0·65 in. The habitat of this species is apparently south of that of *N. striata*, for I find no record of the latter bird being found below Cairns.

70. *DICÆUM HIRUNDINACEUM* Shaw.

Dicæum hirundinaceum Gld. Handb. i. p. 581; Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 412; Math. Handl. p. 90.

No. 342. *a.* Sex? Beech Mount, Inkerman, April 25, 1907.

„ *b.* ♂ adult. Mount Abbot, Nov. 1907.

Bill and feet black; iris brown.

71. *PARDALOTUS MELANOCEPHALUS* Gld.

Pardalotus melanocephalus Gld. Handb. i. p. 165; Math. Handl. p. 91.

a. ♂ adult. Inkerman, Spring Range, Sept. 1907.

b. ♀. Inkerman, Oct. 19, 1907.

Bill black; feet grey-brown; iris grey.

72. *MELITHREPTUS ALBIGULARIS* Gld.

Melithreptus albigularis Gld. Handb. i. p. 571; Math. Handl. p. 92.

No. 311. *a, b, c.* ♀ and ?? . Inkerman, April 17, 1907.

„ *d, e, f, g.* ♂, ♂, ♂, ♂ (?) adult and imm. Inkerman, Oct. 14, 1907.

„ *h.* ♀ adult. Mount Abbot, Oct. 1907.

„ *i.* ♂ adult. Inkerman, Dec. 14, 1907.

Bill blackish; feet greyish brown; iris hazel. "Space near eye light blue."

The different size of the sexes is very marked, the wing of the male being about two-tenths of an inch longer than that of the female. The immature birds are brownish on the crown and mantle.

73. MELITHREPTUS LETIOR Gld.

Melithreptus letior Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 413; Math. Handl. p. 92.

No. 312. *a.* ♀ adult. Inkerman, March 14, 1907.

b. ♂ adult. Spring Range, Inkerman, Sept. 1907. Bill black; feet light brown; iris brown.

74. MYZOMELA SANGUIOLENTA (Lath.).

Myzomela sanguinolenta Gld. Handb. i. p. 555; Math. Handl. p. 93.

No. 324. *a, b, c, d.* ♂, ♂, and ?? (imm. and adult). Beach Mount, Inkerman, May 2, 1907.

No. 384. *e, f.* ♂ ♀. Mount Elliot, Dec. 5, 1907.

Bill brownish black, yellow at the base of the under mandible; feet dark blue, yellow on the sole; iris brown. Frequenting mangroves and ti-trees.

75. MYZOMELA OBSCURA Gld.

Myzomela obscura Gld. Handb. i. p. 559; Math. Handl. p. 93.

No. 301. ♂ adult. Heath Island, Inkerman, April 19, 1907.

No. 331. ♂ adult. Beach Mount, Inkerman, April 25, 1907.

Bill black, yellow of gape shewing; feet dark bluish grey; iris brown.

76. GLYCYPHILA FASCIATA Gld.

Glycyphila fasciata Gld. Handb. i. p. 499; Math. Handl. p. 94.

No. 322. ♂ adult. Inkerman, April 2, 1907. Bill dark brown; feet brown; iris hazel.

77. GLYCYPHILA MODESTA Gray.

Glycyphila modesta Math. Handl. p. 94.

No. 360. a, b. ♂ ♂ adult. Inkerman, Oct. 9, 1907. Bill reddish brown; iris brown.

78. CONOPOPHILA RUFIGULARIS Gld.

Conopophila rufigularis Gld. Handb. i. p. 533; Math. Handl. p. 94.

a. ♂ adult. Inkerman, Oct. 19, 1907. Bill black; feet blue-grey; iris brown.

79. STIGMATOPS OCULARIS (Gld.).

Stigmatops ocularis Gld. Handb. i. p. 500; Math. Handl. p. 95.

No. 359. a. ♂ adult. Inkerman, April 16, 1907.

„ b. ♀ adult. Inkerman, Oct. 3, 1907.

„ c, d. ♂ ♂ adult. Inkerman, Oct. 19, 1907.

The female b, shot Oct. 3, contained a large egg in the oviduct.

80. PTILOTIS CHRYSOTIS (Lewin).

Ptilotis lewenii Gld. Handb. i. p. 503.

Ptilotis chrysotis Math. Handl. p. 95.

No. 317. a. ♂ adult. Inkerman, March 18, 1907.

„ b, c. ♂ ♀ adult. Mt. Elliot (1000 feet), Dec. 1907.

Bill blackish; feet light greyish brown, yellowish behind; iris brown.

81. PTILOTIS FASCIGULARIS Gld.

Ptilotis fasciogularis Gld. Handb. i. p. 507.

Ptilotis fascigularis Math. Handl. p. 96.

No. 300. a, b, c. ♂ and ? ? adult. Inkerman, April 18, 1907.

The three specimens from Inkerman are much more lightly coloured than those in the British Museum, especially on the under parts, the brownish grey of the breast and lower neck being broken up by creamy-white streaks, which merge into the yellow markings on the throat. The lower neck of the typical bird is of a more or less uniform sooty brown, only becoming striated towards the breast; the abdomen and vent being pale buff, faintly streaked with sooty brown. In the Inkerman birds these parts are much paler, being almost white, while the back is likewise lighter and greyer. Only one of the Museum series bears any date, so that it is impossible to say whether the difference is due to abrasion of the plumage or not; in the Inkerman examples the feathers are certainly somewhat worn.

82. *PTILOTIS FLAVA* Gld.

Ptilotis flava Gld. Handb. i. p. 518; Math. Handl. p. 97.

a, b, c. ♀, ♂, ♂ adult. Inkerman, April 2, Sept., and Oct. 3, 1907. Bill black; feet brown; iris brown.

This species seems to vary considerably in size, but, judging by the three skins sent home by Mr. Stalker and the few examples bearing data in the British Museum, the difference is merely sexual. The average measurements of three males is as follows: wing 3·65 in., tail 3·2 in., culmen 0·75 in.; that of four females: wing 3·35 in., tail 3·1 in., culmen 0·65 in.

83. *PTILOTIS UNICOLOR* Gld.

Stomiopera unicolor Gld. Handb. i. p. 523.

Ptilotis unicolor Math. Handl. p. 97.

No. 316. ♂ adult. Mount Inkerman, March 18, 1907. Bill black; feet blue-grey; iris grey.

The single skin collected by Mr. Stalker on Mount Inkerman (an isolated hill overlooking a stretch of flat country) differs noticeably from any of the nine specimens in the National Collection. In its general coloration it is olivaceous grey and entirely lacks the brownish hue of the Museum examples and of those described by Gould (*vide*

supra) and North (Nest & Eggs B. of Austr. vol. ii. p. 151 [1907]), the difference being especially marked on the wings and tail, which are usually the brownest parts of the typical bird. It is also distinguished by the more conspicuous margins to the secondary feathers, these forming, when the wing is closed, a pronounced streak of yellowish green. The under parts are likewise of a clearer olive-grey. Gould describes the irides of *P. unicolor* as being "obscure red," while it will be observed by Mr. Stalker's notes that they are "grey" in my bird. With regard to measurements and in other respects it seems, however, to agree with *P. unicolor*. The Inkerman bird has every appearance of being adult, and the unworn condition of the plumage and the time of year at which it was shot point to its being newly moulted. Unfortunately none of the skins at the British Museum bear any date, so that it is impossible to say whether the difference is merely seasonal or not; but as one of the adult examples in the Museum (killed during the moult) shews half-grown feathers of a *brownish* colour, this explanation does not seem to be very probable.

84. ENTOMYZA CYANOTIS Lath.

Entomyza cyanotis Gld. Handb. i. p. 560; Math. Handl. p. 99.

No. 310. *a, b.* ♂ ♂ adult. Inkerman, March 14, 1907.

„ *c, d.* ♂ ♀ adult. Inkerman, April 16, 1907.

Bill blue-black, greenish yellow at base; feet dark blue-grey; iris greyish yellow.

The backs of my four specimens are of a purer green and have less of the golden tinge; they otherwise agree closely with the series in the British Museum.

85. TROPIDORHYNCHUS CORNICULATUS (Lath.).

Tropidorhynchus corniculatus Gld. Handb. i. p. 545; Math. Handl. p. 100.

No. 318. ♂ adult. Mount Elliot. Townsville, Dec. 1, 1907. Bill black; feet black, steely grey tarsi; iris very pale brown.

86. PHILEMON CITREOGULARIS Gld.

Tropidorhynchus citreogularis Gld. Handb. i. p. 549.

Philemon citreigularis Math. Handl. p. 100.

a. ♀ adult. Inkerman, Oct. 3, 1907.

b. ♀ adult. Inkerman Spring, Sept. 1907.

Bill black; feet greyish black; iris creamy brown.

87. MIRAFRA HORSFIELDI Gld.

Mirafra horsfieldi Gld. Handb. i. p. 404; Math. Handl. p. 100.

No. 362. a. Adult. Inkerman, Oct. 9, 1907. Bill brown; feet creamy brown; iris brown.

In his 'Handlist' Mr. Mathews gives S. Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and S. Australia as the habitat of this species. Its occurrence at Inkerman, North Queensland, is therefore of interest. The plumage of this example is exceptionally dark.

88. STICTOPTERA BICHENOVII (Vig. & Horsf.).

Stictoptera bichenovii Gld. Handb. i. p. 409; Ingram, Ibis, 1907, p. 415; Math. Handl. p. 102.

No. 319. ♀ adult. Inkerman, April 3, 1907. Bill and feet bluish black; iris brown.

Mr. Stalker remarks on the label that this bird was shot from a nest containing five eggs.

89. POËPHILA CINCTA Gld.

Poëphila cincta Gld. Handb. i. p. 425; Math. Handl. p. 103.

No. 324. ♂ ♀. Inkerman, April 2, 1907. Bill black; feet creamy buff; iris brown.

By their covering of soft, weakly-barbed feathers, it is apparent that these birds are in immature plumage, which no doubt explains their very dull and pale coloration. In other respects they resemble typical examples.

90. ORIOLUS SAGITTARIUS Lath.

Mimeta viridis Gld. Handb. i. p. 462.

Oriolus sagittarius Math. Handl. p. 104.

No. 364. a, b. ♂ ♀ adult. Inkerman, Oct. 19, 1907. Bill reddish brown; feet blue-grey; iris brick- to orange-red.

These two birds are typical examples of the form *Oriolus viridis*, a species separated by most authors from *O. affinis* (Gld.).

91. SPHECOTHERES STALKERI Ingram.

Sphecotheres stalkerii Ingram, Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxi. p. 100.

No. 390. *a, b.* ♂♂ adult. Mount Elliot, Dec. 1907. Shot from flock of 68.

This interesting bird is most nearly allied to *Sphecotheres salvadorii* Sharpe, of British New Guinea, and is only the third member of this genus found in Australia. It differs from *S. salvadorii* in having the grey of the throat flecked or faintly streaked with white, especially on the sides of the neck below the auriculars, these parts being of a uniform and somewhat darker grey in the typical bird. The back is of a slightly greyer green, and the yellow on the under surface is conspicuously paler and more extensive, there being much less green on the upper breast. In this species three, instead of four, of the outer tail-feathers are marked with white. Measurements as in *S. salvadorii*. Habitat: Mount Elliot, Queensland.

92. CHIBIA BRACTEATA Gld.

Chibia bracteata Gld. Handb. i. p. 235; Math. Handl. p. 104.

No. 313. *a.* ♂ adult. Mount Inkerman, March 11, 1907.

„ *b.* Sex? adult. Inkerman, April 10, 1907. Bill and feet black; iris brown.

93. CHLAMYDODERA ORIENTALIS Gld.

Chlamydodera orientalis Math. Handl. p. 106.

No. 306. *a.* ♀ adult. Inkerman, April 21, 1907. Bill dark brown, yellow at base; feet dark greenish grey; iris brown.

„ *b.* ♂ adult. Inkerman, Sept. 1907. Bill dark sepia-brown; feet deep grey; iris brown.

Mr. Stalker briefly remarks on the back of the label that “the lilac on the nape is spread into a rosette when the bird is dancing,” a note which seems to indicate that the bird was indulging in a kind of “display” at the time that it was shot.